

Benjamin Beach House  
North Haven, Connecticut

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Connecticut

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Harold H. Davis, District Officer  
29 Whitney Ave., New Haven, Conn.

BENJAMIN BEACH HOUSE

North Haven, New Haven County, Conn.

Owner: Misses Anna, Adel Broohiefer, Quinnipiac Ave, North Haven, Conn.

Date of Ereotion: Circa 1711

Architect or Builder: Benjamin Beach

Præsent Condition: Very Poor

Number of Stories: One and one-half

Materials of Construction: Stone foundation - cut brownstone  
Stone Chimney  
Clapboard sidewalls--all beaded  
Hand wrought nails  
Wood shingle roof

Other Existing Records: Early Domestic Architecture of Conn.  
J. F. Kelly.  
North Haven Annals - S. B. Thorpe.  
Article by A. L. Plumley entitled,  
"125th Anniversary Nears for  
Montowese Baptist Church" -  
New Haven Register.

List of Photographs:

1. Front Elevation (East)
2. Paneling - North Wall of Living Room
3. West (back) and South Elevation
4. North Door of Two, East Side Front

BENJAMIN BEACH HOUSE  
NORTH HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

A number of one story or story and a half houses which are still standing in the regions about New Haven, especially in the towns of North Haven and East Haven, exhibit across the front of the houses a treatment of the eaves, which is purely Dutch in character and feeling. The Benjamin Beach House in Montowese, town of North Haven, may be considered a typical example of this type. It was built about 1711 and is not unlike other structures of this vicinity, most of which were single houses - that is of one room. None <sup>was</sup> ever painted and all were more or less rough in construction. Aside from this rough appearance, the interior has some fine panelling details in a small way. It is well to note on the exterior that each and every board is beaded, which is quite unusual.

Benjamin Beach, only son of Samuel Beach, was a farmer in North Haven. He had three sons. One of these, Benjamin Beach, Jr., moved to Cheeslerie (now Seymour) to become the first settled Pastor of the Congregational Church there. He moved into the Parish House in March, 1790.

The Benjamin Beach House is referred to as the Separate Church. A little before 1759, the religious denominations known as Separatists began to hold meetings in this house. From appearances of the house today, it may be assumed that the ell of the house was used for these meetings, as it even now has the appearance of a church hall. Although there were but a handful of these Separatists, they arrayed themselves with such bitterness against the standing Church of North Haven as to cause considerable annoyance.

After the Wallingford Parish had disbanded because of lack of members, Mrs. Heaten and others "revived the old fire" and prepared the way for founding the Baptist Church in this village. With the Rev. Joshua Bradley as their spiritual leader, twenty-three residents met on June 12, 1811, in the home of Jededia Button, and with representatives for Baptist Churches in Meriden, Hartford, Middletown, East Haddam, Ashford, Mansfield and Saybrook, announced "their article of faith and covenant" and were given the "right hand of fellowship". The first Baptist known and identified with the community was Mrs. Benjamin Beach, whose husband preached for a time in the Wallingford Parish.

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It is reported that the house was purchased by a family named Button, from the Beach family. For a number of years, there lived there an invalid woman who was known as Aunt Bobby Button, and even now in the vicinity of the old home you may hear it referred to as the Aunt Bebbie Button Home. The present owners, the Misses Anna and Adel Brochiefer, are two of the many who refer to it with the latter appellation.

The house at present is in very poor condition, almost dilapidated, and is leased to the Montowese Brick Company.

Source of Information: Early Domestic Architecture of Conn.

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Approved:

*Harold H. Davis - Feb. 27 - 1939*